

Portugal

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"New shores descended into every room of day,
And Cintra's mountain greets them on their way,
And Sagres dashing onward to the deep,
His fabled golden tribute here to pay,
And soon on board the Lusian pilot's leap,
And steer 'twixt fertile shores where yet few reapers reap."

"Oh, Christ! it is a goodly sight to see
What Heaven hath done for this delicious land!
What fruits of fragrance blush on every tree!
What goodly prospect o'er the hills expand!"

This "delicious land" does not always receive
her due meed of praise. Everyone has
heard a good deal of the charms of Italy
of Switzerland, even of Germany France; but
everybody does not realize that Portugal
is a land of sunny skies & ocean-washed
shores. Pausanias is so far gone that the
people have a legend of how Theseus journeyed
hither from the far east that he might
see the great glory of the Liris descent
into these western seas; a land where
broad rolling rivers pay their "golden tribute"
to the deep;

Nikshich & Rodgovitz, to the north & south of
the old boundary; & Antivari, a town on the
Adriatic with a harbour. Next to the
Montenegrin women—who do most of the work
for their warlike husbands.—^{now been} ~~into~~ compelled
to bring their bacon, venison, hides &
wool to Cattars for exportation, as they had
no seaboard of their own. Cattars is a
seaport town on the narrow strip of
Dalmatian territory which divide
Montenegro from the Adriatic.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

The mountainous region to the north-west,
including the provinces of Turkish Croatia,
Bosnia & Herzegovina have had a
peculiarly turbulent history. The
Turkish conquest of these provinces
was slow & difficult, & for over three
two centuries, Herzegovina was the
battle field of Christians & Mahomedans.

In 1877 these three provinces were finally
annexed ^{annexed} to Turkey, ^{the Turkish province of Bosnia} & since that time
the country has been the scene of almost
constant disturbances & rebellions by
the brave & hardy mountaineers.

On account of the unsettled condition of the
country, it was decided at the Treaty of Berlin
that Austrian troops should, for the present,
occupy Bosnia & Herzegovina, & that the government
should be in the hands of Austria.

The Bosnian are a tall, strong, handsome people,
though quarlike Croats, but they do not neglect to
cultivate the lovely well-watered valleys that lie
between

The mountains which nearly cover this country
Great quantities of grain & fruit are grown,
game & fish abound, & the country is
famous for its honey bees, its chief
products & its wine.

Every town has its fortress, & beyond the
walled towns are rather miserable suburbs
inhabited by the lower class. Serai-
Bosnia is the capital, & the chief trading town,
Banyaluka is in a beautiful spot, &
has mineral springs; Zvornik has
a great tract in the timber cut down
from the forest covered mountains;
Mostar has a really handsome stone
bridge.

The Holy Mountains

To the east of the Gulf of Saloniki is a
peninsula which stretches three curiously
shaped promontories into the waters of the Archipelago.
The most-easterly of these is Mount Athos,
a magnificent mountain, rising from
the very sea, in the form of a beautifully
wooded cone, upwards of 1,000 feet high.
Dotted about on its sides are altogether
twenty monasteries, some of them of great
antiquity, & dating back to the reign of
Constantine the Great. Besides the monasteries
there are as many as three hundred
hermitages, occupied by anchorites who
live alone in their cells. except on feast
days, when they join the monks in the
common repast. The population is entirely
male,

male; no female ^{has} is every allowed to set foot on
the Holy Mountain, ^{was} ~~and~~ only an women ex-
cluded, but not cow, mare, hen, sw. cat, ac. he
even been admitted within the holy precincts;
~~through~~ all the monasteries ^{however} ~~except~~ with
huge tom. cats, imported from the neighboring
islands. Mr. Bowen, a traveller who lately
visited Mount Athos was asked by a young
monk who had spent his life in one of its
monasteries. "What sort of human creature

^{are women?}
~~Mr. Bowen~~ ^{the same traveller} also describes a visit to the still
more remarkable monasteries of Meteora,
in Thessaly, another of the great monasteries
of the Greek Church. They are so placed
upon high, perpendicular cliffs that they
can only be reached by ladders of rope,
or by a sort of net, into which a man falls
is drawn to the top by means of
a pulley & windlass. Mr. Bowen says,

"I fired off a pistol to attract the attention
of the monks, when, long before the echoes had
died away over Rindos, two or three cowed
heads were thrust out from under the covered
platform projecting from the summit of
the rock. After reconnoitering us for
a moment, the monks threw down what
seemed a strong cabbage-net, lowering at
the same time a thick rope with an iron
hook at its end. My guide spread the net
on the ground, & I seated myself in it
cross-legged. He then fastened the meshes
together over my head & hung them on the hook.
The monks above then worked their windlass, &

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Linn about three minutes & a half I reached the
summit - a distance of between two & three
hundred feet, swinging to & fro in the breeze,
sterning round like a point of metal
roasting before a slow fire. Being landed,
you lie on the floor a perfectly helpless ball,
until the monks under the meshes of the
net from the rock, under you, give you a
gentle shake, & then help you to your feet."

There are many other monasteries
scattered here & there about Turkey, especially
about the Balkan range. The largest of
these, some which is ~~a fine monastery~~
than even those of Mount Athos, is that
called Rila Monastery, about twelve
miles from Samokov. A traveller
thus describes his visit to this beautiful
spot. "At last we approached the great
quadrangular building of Rila Monastery -
sight in itself! It is built upon a rocky
height overhanging a foaming river, on
the site of an ancient ruin. A deep & rocky
mountain burn snakes its way close to the
monastery walls, down to the river below,
& forms a kind of moat for the great
gateway where sits an Albanian guard in
handsome crimson uniforms with silver
facings, surrounded them a few aged monks
basking in the sun.

"As we ride under the archway & enter the great
court a loud clasp of bells comes forth, as a great
welcome, from the high belfry in the centre of
the building. Monks are walking in the cloisters
around all along their heads ^{some of them}
* Turkey in Europe. 7 Baker steps

steps forward & takes charge of our horses as we dismount. - A tall dark monk then appears, & by the great keys hanging at his side I know that he is the steward. He takes us in charge, & we are shown through the long gallery into a comfortable room richly carpeted. It is impossible to describe the scenery of this lovely spot. It must be seen to be appreciated. The monastery, although in a ravine, is probably 3,000 feet above the sea, & is surrounded by mountains varying in height from 6,000 to nearly 10,000 feet, which look down into the very crowded town. There are romantic walks by mountain burns, through groves of flowering shrubs & filbert trees, pretty stone & rustic bridges, ferns & flowers; everything, in fact, to make life enjoyable."

The size of this establishment may be imagined from the fact that it sometimes houses & feeds upwards of thousands of pilgrims at one time.

These monasteries of the Greek Church are, throughout Turkey, independent of the Porte, except that they pay a certain annual tribute; but the laws by which they are regulated are made by councils of their own, or by the Greek Patriarch; indeed, they are much in the same position as were the monasteries of England in the reign of Henry VIII.

The Albanians.

Though Albania still remains under the rule of the Sultan, the inhabitants go

So distinct a race, that we must find them
a separate nation. That they are still
subject to the Porte is probably due to two causes;
in the first place, the majority of the people
are Mohammedans, for whom, in the fifteenth
century, the Turks succeeded in conquering
these hardy mountaineers, a law was
made which secured the estates of the
population to every ~~son~~^{family}, which should
bring upon son in the Mohammedan
faith; & though the Albanians hold
their creed so lightly that the faithful
treat them as infidels, still it forms
a certain bond between them & the Turks.
In the second place, the Albanians are
so warlike, & their mountainous country
is so inaccessible, that Turkey has
never attempted to exercise more
than a nominal control over Albania,
& is careful not to offend her hardy
sons who form the best defence of
Turkey in times of war.

Roughly speaking, the Albanians may
be divided into the Gheghes of the north
& the Tosks of the south. The country of the
Gheghes is full of mountains & deeps &
dense forests; in fact, it is a great
natural fortification which its hardy &
warlike people are well able to defend.

When the women are made useful in
border fights, they go about armed, &
with a sack containing perhaps two
children on her back, a woman makes
her way to the field to labour, while her

her lord & master is ranging the mountains
in search of game. The features of the
women are coarse from exposure, & both
sexes are extremely dirty in their
persons, seldom changing their clothes until
they drop off, & never washing themselves.
On high days & holidays they cover their
shirt with a very picturesque dress.
They are divided into many clans
which are frequently at war with each other,
& their blood-feuds are handed down from
generation to generation. When not engaged
in border forays, they are chiefly occupied
in making firearms & gunpowder, herding
& stealing large flocks of sheep & cattle, &
collecting skins & furs. The women
manufacture the clothing for both sexes
which consists of a coarse kind of flannel.
The men invariably go armed, & a
proud Ghazka may be seen with a long
gun over his shoulder, two or sometimes
three pistols, a yataghan in his belt,
& a crooked sabre by his side. When he
condescends to follow the plough, he still
keeps his gun slung across his shoulder.
Secularly, he handles the gun more
cleverly than the plough. Naturally,
the social condition of these people is
very low, & this state is fostered by their
frequent blood-feuds. Indeed, the ambition
of the young men is to rival their fellows
in the number of victims they have slain
in these feuds.
Very little pains is taken by the Ottomans

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authorities to put an end to this savage
state of society, as they feel that to do it
effectually, would be to rouse these mount-
taineers into rebellion, & thus to lose
their valuable aid in the wars of the kingdom.
These Gheghes are, physically, a fine race
of men, with the lordly air & independent
stout commonly observed among
highlanders. A certain number of
them descend annually from the
mountains ^{to the towns & ports of the Adriatic} in search of employment
as masons, carpenters, bakers, shepherds,
&c. In the spring they return to
their homes with their earnings. Idle as
they are at home, they prove pretty
good labourers when working in fairs
in this way.

The Tosks of the south differs from
their northern neighbours both in
appearance & character. Their fair
skin & blue eyes contrast with the
tawny skin & dark eyes of the Gheghes,
& as they occupy the plains & the coast
their habits are more settled & they are
more industrious & civilised. In
Turkey most of the ~~peasants~~ servants
used as freeds in the country, &
messengers in the towns are
Albanians.

The chief towns of Albania are, Jarrina.
The chief town in the south, on the banks of
a lovely lake of the same name which is
surrounded by lofty mountains, & is a
busy & important town, but is now fast
Shutari upon the lake of Shutari is the chief town
of northern Albania; it has a large trade in wool
(wool, wax, hides, &c.) skins, & other produce & it
exports in return for manufactured goods and